

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (new): An assist device for a door handle and latch, said assist device comprising:

an elongated hollow bar;  
one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a pivot means;  
the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a pivot piece  
therein;  
wherein said pivot piece is secured to said handle, projects outwardly  
from said said handle and is not as wide as said handle;  
the engagement of the pivot piece and the handle creating stop surfaces  
for the bar as pivot piece is introduced into the bar.

Claim 26 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot means secures said bar to a  
u-shaped bracket.

Claim 27 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said bar near the pivot area rests entirely  
within said bracket.

Claim 28 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot means consists of a long inside  
threaded bolt which passes through said bracket and said bar, and a short  
outside threaded bolt which is screwed into said long bolt.

Claim 29 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot piece is sturdily secured to  
said handle with two nuts and bolts.

Claim 30 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said bracket is sturdily secured to a door  
or a door support with at least two screws.

Claim 31 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said pivot means passes through the top part of said bar and through the top part of said u-shaped bracket.

Claim 32 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said bar has a substantially constant cross-sectional area throughout its entire length.

Claim 33 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said assist device parts appear to be very tightly and sturdily arranged, yet said bar pivots as desired.

Claim 34 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said bar has a square cross-sectional shape.

Claim 35 (new): The assist device of claim 34, wherein said pivot piece is flat and substantially rectangular to form a relatively tight fit inside the bar.

Claim 36 (new): An assist device for a door handle, said assist device comprising:  
an elongated hollow bar;  
one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a pivot means;  
the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a pivot piece;  
said pivot piece not as wide as said handle and projecting from said handle;  
the engagement of the pivot piece and handle creating stop surfaces for the bar as the pivot piece is introduced into the bar.

Claim 37 (new): The assist device of claim 36, wherein said pivot means comprises a hollow inside threaded long bolt receiving an outside threaded short bolt therein.

Claim 38 (new): The assist device of claim 36, wherein said pivot means secures a bar end to a u-shaped bracket.

Claim 39 (new): The assist device of claim 38, wherein said bar near said pivot means rests entirely within said bracket.

Claim 40 (new): The assist device of claim 39, wherein said pivot means passes through the top part of said bar and through the top part of said u-shaped bracket.

Claim 41 (new): An assist device for a door latch and handle, said assist device comprising:  
an elongated hollow bar;

one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a  
pivot pin;

the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a  
pivot piece therein;

said pivot pin securing said bar to a u-shaped bracket;

said pivot pin comprising a long inside threaded hollow bolt  
which passes through a top part of said bar and a top part  
of said bracket, and a short outside threaded bolt screwed  
into said long bolt;

said pivot piece secured to said handle by two nuts and two bolts,  
projects from said handle and is not as wide as said handle;

the engagement of the pivot piece and handle creating stop  
surfaces for the bar as the pivot piece is introduced into  
the bar;

said pivot piece, bracket and bar being substantially axially  
aligned along a longitudinal axis.